(ख) केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा लगाये जाने वाले प्रमुख कर निगमित कर, आयकर, उत्पाद शुल्क, सीमा शुल्क, ब्याज कर, होटल प्राप्तियां कर, व्यय कर, धन कर एवं सेवा कर हैं।

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) और (ङ) प्रमुख करों की 31.3.1998 एवं 30.9.1998 को बकाया राशि क्रमशः 51270 करोड़ रुपये एवं 45177 करोड़ रुपये है।

**रिजर्व बैंक के प्रति औद्योगिक घरानों की देन्दारियां**

1021. **श्री डी०पी० यादव:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश के सभी प्रमुख औद्योगिक घरानों की भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के प्रति कुल देनदारियों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वारा इन सभी औद्योगिक घरानों से बकाया राशि की वसूली हेतु कोई कार्रवाई की गई है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

**वित्त मंत्रालय बैंकिंग, राजस्व तथा बीमा में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कादम्बूर एम०आर० जनार्दनन):** (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा उपलब्ध सूचना सभापटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

**Substitution of Provisions of Section 10(23)(G) of Income-Tax Act**

1022. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fate of tax exemptions in investments of over Rs. 20,000 crore made in the infrastucture activities during 1997-98 under the provisions of Section 10(23)(G) of Income Tax Act had run under a cloud with the amendment by way of substitution of a new clause bearing the number to take effect from June, 1998; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to clarify the issues involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The provisions of section 10(23)(G) were amended by the Finance (No.2) Act, 1998 with effect from 1.4.1999. The amended provision would apply only in respect of investments made on or after the 1st day of June, 1998. The investments made during 1997-98 would not at all be affected by this amendment. This position has already been clarified by way of a Press Release in August, 1998. Necessary legislative change in this regard is under consideration.

**Prices of Essential Commodities**

1023. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of almost all essential commodities have sky-rocketed during the last seven months and the consumer price index has recorded an increase of over 15%;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such an abnormal increase in prices indicating the increase in prices registered during the last seven months, month-wise; and

(c) what further steps are contemplated to bring prices under control?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Prices of some primary articles, particularly, vegetables recorded a sharp increase since July, 1998, pushing up the WPI based inflation rate to 8.5 per cent and the CPI based inflation rate to a high of 18.6 per cent in October, 1998.

(b) This year's seasonal price rise has been much too high on account of two set backs affecting production and market arrivals. The first seasonal set back caused due to intense heat wave conditions in May-June 1998 causing moisture stress to the standing vegetable and fruit

crops. The second seasonal set back occurred due to excessive post monsoon rainfall in late September-October, 1998, disrupting harvest schedule and supplies. The magnitude of price increase during the seven months was:

| | WPI based inflation % increase | CPI based inflation % increase |
|---|---|---|
| April, 98 | 5.6 | 8,2 |
| May, 98 | 6.6 | 10.5 |
| June, 98 | 7.5 | 12.4 |
| July, 98 | 8.3 | 14.8 |
| August, 98 | 8.3 | 15.0 |
| September, 98 | 8.1 | 16.3 |
| October, 98 | 8.2 | 18.6 |

(c) A number of policy intiatives have been taken by the Government to check the rise in prices, State Governments were requested to take action against hoarders, black marketers, anti social elements. Government has reduced duty on import of edible oils from 25% to 15%. To moderate further the prices of edible oils. Govt. itself is importing 1.5 lakh tonnes of edible oil for supply through PDS. Imports of pulses are allowed under OGL and export has been banned, and import duty of 10% on pulses has been abolished. Export of onions has been banned and it's import has been allowed under OGL duty free to increase domestic availability. Open market sale of wheat from FCI stocks has been authorised. Role of macro-economic factors such as the fiscal deficit and growth of money supply, mentioned by RBI also, cannot be ignored. Control of fiscal deficit is important for managing inflation and growth of the economy.

**Trade Practices of Hindustan Lever Limited**

1024.SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in "Nav Bharat Times" dated the 6th August, 1998 under the heading "Bhedia Karobar Hindustan Lever Par Mukadama Chalaya Ja Sakta Hai"; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) SEBI has stated that they had undertaken investigations into the alleged insider trading by Hindustan Lever Ltd. (HLL). After following the prescribed procedure, an order was passed by SEBI on 11th March, 1998 under the SEBI Act, 1992 read with SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, directing HLL to compensate Unit Trust of India to the extent of Rs. 3.04 crore and ordering prosecution under Section 24 read with Section 27 of the SEBI Act against HLL and five of its directors. An appeal was preferred by HLL and others against the order of SEBI to the Appellate Authority in the Central Government under Section 20 of the SEBI Act. The Appellate Authority vide order dated 14th July, 1998 set aside SEBI's order. Following this, SEBI has filed a writ before the Bombay High Court against the order of the Appellate Authority. The matter is now subjudice.

**Submission made by North-East Judicial Officers' Welfare Association**

1025. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the Silchar-based North-East Judicial Officers Welfare Association has submitted before the First National Judicial Pay Commission that the judiciary is yet to be separated from the executive in some of the seven North-Eastern States; and